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Contact:

Jennifer Iida (916) 653-3925

Information Officer

Ted Thomas (916) 653-9712

Information Officer

Blue-Green Algal Bloom Persists in Silverwood Lake; Stay Out of the Water until Further Notice

SACRAMENTO – The cyanobacteria (blue-green) algal bloom in Silverwood Lake is persisting, according to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Recent sampling for microcystin toxins in the water showed that levels have increased, and DWR and California State Parks are warning the public to stay out of the water until further notice. **All water activity is prohibited**, including swimming, wading, boating, waterskiing and jet-skiing.

Danger signs are posted at the lake and swim beaches are closed. However, activities near the water such as picnicking and hiking are safe. Because algal blooms can form and die off fairly rapidly, DWR continues to test the water and will update this advisory as conditions change.

Based on current testing results, the following precautions from the *Voluntary Statewide Guidance for Blue-Green Algae Blooms* are in effect:

- Stay out of the water until further notice.
- Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.
- Do not let pets go into or drink the water, or go near scum on the shoreline.
- Do not drink lake water or use it for cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.
- Do not eat fish or shellfish from these waters.

If people or pets become sick after going in the water, contact a doctor or veterinarian.

Sunlight, warm temperatures, nutrients in the water and calm conditions can contribute to algal blooms, which are considered to be harmful if they produce toxins that can affect people and pets when they contact the affected water.

People can be exposed to the toxins when they accidentally swallow water while swimming or waterskiing. The toxins can also contact the skin during swimming or be inhaled if they become aerosolized, such as during waterskiing or jet skiing.

Exposure to high concentrations of these toxins can cause skin rashes, eye, nose, mouth or throat irritation, headache and gastrointestinal upset. Dogs can experience diarrhea, vomiting,

convulsions, or even death if they ingest the water or lick their fur after contacting the affected water.

Additional information on harmful algal blooms can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board website:

http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network/index.html.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

